Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. In order to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the important region of the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East that were supported in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and generally referred to in article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran reports the following:

2. Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, and this was followed by a resolution of the General Assembly. Since 1980, the General Assembly has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution on the issue. Continuous adoption of that resolution by the General Assembly is the manifestation of global support for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Middle East through the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

Israeli clandestine nuclear programme is the main obstacle to a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region

3. As a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to its international undertakings and believes that that international instrument is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Universal adherence to the Treaty, in particular in the region of the Middle East, would effectively ensure the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. Currently, the Zionist regime is the only non-party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the region. Despite repeated calls by the international community contained in the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, related resolutions of the General Assembly, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Zionist regime, confident of the political and military support of the United States of America, has neither acceded to the Treaty on the

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Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nor placed its unwarranted nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. It has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. The clandestine nuclear activities of the regime, carried out with the support of the United States, seriously threaten both regional and international peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

4. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the importance of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. Owing to the significant provisions of that resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other States in the region truly expect that the resolution should be swiftly implemented, especially by its sponsors, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as depositories of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

5. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed "the importance of Israel's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East". Unconditional adherence by the Zionist regime to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and conclusion of a full-scope safeguards agreement with IAEA would undoubtedly lead to the early realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Neglecting the commitments undertaken by States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with the adoption of that important resolution can only embolden that regime to continue to remain a threat and a source of instability in the Middle East by flouting the aspirations of the international community and remaining outside of the fold of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the full-scope safeguards regime. In this context, we believe that national reports do not address the negative implications of the Zionist regime's intransigence in not acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and are not as effective as they ought to be with regard to the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in implementing its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and specifically articles II and III of the Treaty, reaffirms that all its nuclear facilities are devoted to peaceful purposes and are under the full-scope safeguards of IAEA. Furthermore, contributing to the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the Middle East, Iran has signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Iran's high record of accession to the non-proliferation and disarmament instruments, relative to other countries in the Middle East, is not only a clear manifestation of our firm commitment to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation, but also is evidence of our dedicated efforts towards the noble goal of the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in its bilateral and multilateral dialogues with other States parties to the Treaty, has always urged their active contribution towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the firm belief that an agreed plan of action and timetable for the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons, especially in the Middle East, should be a top priority on the agenda of all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular nuclear-weapon States. There should be greater pressure on the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons promptly and without conditions, and to place all of its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full-scope safeguards to pave the way for the long-sought goal of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

9. Unfortunately, the inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented nuclear weapons programme implemented by the Zionist regime, has emboldened the regime to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons, as a fact which was confirmed by its Prime Minister in an interview on German television on 12 December 2006. That runs counter to the long-sought idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Moreover, the clandestine development and possession of nuclear weapons by the regime not only violate basic principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and numerous General Assembly, Security Council and IAEA General Conference resolutions, but also clearly defy the demands and concerns of the overwhelming majority of United Nations Member States. The regime constantly and obstinately disregards the international community, which has, time and again, called on the regime to renounce nuclear weapons and accede to the Treaty. Moreover, the Non-Aligned Movement, in its statement made in New York on 5 February 2007, expressed great concern regarding the acquisition of nuclear capability by the Zionist regime, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemned the regime for its action, for its statement in that regard and for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals.

10. The Security Council should fulfil its Charter-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and take prompt and appropriate actions. The Zionist regime is the only obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East while the massive nuclear arsenal of that regime continues to threaten countries in the region and beyond. It is a matter of regret that while no practical measure is being taken to contain the threat of the regime as the real source of nuclear danger in the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran, a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the initiator of the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, is under tremendous pressure from a few States to renounce its inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

11. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that, pending the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, no country in the region must acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing, on its territories or on territories under its control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, and that States in the region should refrain from actions that run counter to both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the conferences to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have a significant role to play in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Review Conference of 2010 should establish a subsidiary body under Main Committee II to consider the issue and make concrete recommendations on urgent and practical steps towards the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. The Review Conference should also make recommendations on measures to force the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place its unwarranted nuclear facilities under the full-scope IAEA safeguards to pave the way for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region.

13. Due to the importance of the Middle East region and in order to strengthen the realization of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East as well as the agreements of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that all States parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, as the sponsors of the 1995 Middle East resolution, should continue to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of the Conference.

14. The upcoming Review Conference should also establish a standing committee to monitor the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East as well as the agreements of the 2000 Conference in that regard and to report to the States parties to the Treaty.